

Columbia Heights/ Mount Pleasant Transportation Study

Scope of Work

December 2002

Problem Statement

The Columbia Heights and Mount Pleasant neighborhoods are experiencing new investment that will significantly expand the residential base, commercial activity, and retail space especially in the 14th Street corridor, potentially generating greater volumes of and conflicts between auto, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit trips within the neighborhood.

The Consultant will develop a multi-modal transportation design and management plan that will focus on preserving, strengthening or creating a vibrant diversified residential and commercial neighborhood, while at the same time, improving the efficiency of movement of all modes through the neighborhood center as part of a city and regional transportation system. District Department of Transportation (DDOT) seeks a study that will recommend balanced physical design and management strategies that encourage the efficient and safe movement of all users and achieve the following goals:

- Reinforces and/or defines the sense of place and uniqueness of the Columbia Heights neighborhood/community;
- Recognizes the role of the roadways, transit linkages, and bike and pedestrian pathways within the study area as an integral component in the overall city and regional transportation system and maintains or improves their function and efficiency as a part of the system;
- Investigates and balances safe and efficient pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and auto movement through and within the neighborhood center;
- Establishes a flexible, demand-management based parking strategy and implementation plan that supports both new and existing retail and residential uses;
- Explicitly encourages the use of transit and enhances transit efficiency, and;
- Creates a safe, inviting, and interesting public realm that supports a diversity of uses and activities.

Study Area

The “study area” for this project includes the following area:

Spring Road, NW to the north, Georgia Avenue, NW to the east, Adams Mill Road and 16th Street to the west, and Florida Avenue, NW to the south. In addition to the above corridors the study area will include a core area representing a 5 minute walk radiating around the metro station. A secondary affected area circle radiating from the Metro Station represents a 10-minute walk. The attached map best illustrates the study area and the core area. The contractor will also investigate traffic impacts of major arterials going into and out of the study area especially, Harvard Street, Irving Street, Columbia Road, 14th Street and Park Road.

Definition of Work

The contractor will develop a multi-modal transportation design and management plan that will focus on strengthening or creating a vibrant commercial and residential neighborhood. The contractor will examine the existing traffic conditions and work towards improving the efficiency of movement of all modes of transportation through the study area. The contractor will investigate safe and efficient pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and auto movement by recognizing the role of roadways and transit linkages, bike and pedestrian pathways within the study area as part of city and regional transportation system. The contractor will investigate both on-street and off-street parking in the study area and establish a flexible, demand-management based parking strategy and implementation plan. The contractor will also examine and make recommendations to improve transit, bicycle and pedestrian transportation services in the study area. The contractor will investigate current and future needs regarding vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle mobility, taking into account the impact of the proposed new developments, truck movements and safety. The contractor shall work in close coordination with community stakeholders in addressing their traffic and safety concerns.

The contractor shall prepare a draft study scope of work, project schedule and proposed budget and submit these documents to the DDOT project manager at the end of week #1 after receiving a notice to proceed.

Description of Work to be Performed

Task 1: Scoping Meeting

The contractor shall develop a meaningful community participation process that will consist of a series of public meetings with residents, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D, and community stakeholders in the Columbia Heights study area including Latino Economic Development Corporation, Development Corporation of Columbia Heights (DCCH), and the Bell/Lincoln Multicultural School. The purpose of this public participation process shall be to obtain input for development of the traffic management concept designs. The public participation process shall consist of public meetings, a project website, meeting notices, pamphlets, graphics and other mechanisms to communicate project information and obtain community comment. A study Steering Committee representing District agencies, residents and commercial interests in the Columbia Heights neighborhood shall be created. The purpose of the Steering Committee will be to review and comment on the study scope of work and periodically review progress and comment on the schedule and substance of the study. ANC's 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D shall be represented on the steering committee.

The consultants shall schedule a minimum of (4) four public meetings. The first public meeting will be held to discuss the proposed scope of work and schedule for the traffic study, and receive public comment. The contractor shall conduct this meeting in the second week of the study. The aim of this meeting will be to announce the project to the neighborhood, outline the projected timeframe for the study and introduce the contractor to community stakeholders. This meeting will also allow for community input in refining the study scope of work.

The second public meeting will occur after Task 2 – Collection and Consolidation of Data, and provide the community with an opportunity to comment on the data collection phase and discuss preliminary Short Term and Long Term Options.

The third public meeting will be held after Task 6 is completed – Draft Report, where the community can comment on the draft report findings and recommendations.

A final public meeting will be held following the preparation of the final report. This meeting will allow for a presentation of the final report's findings and recommendations.

With the assistance of the Department of Transportation and the Office of Planning, the Contractor shall develop a project contact/ mailing list of parties within the study area and other interested parties. The contractor shall also post study information on the DDOT web site. Notice of public meetings shall be provided through DDOT's project web site, as well as placed in local community newspapers and mailings to key community and business groups. All public meetings will be held in the Columbia Heights neighborhood.

Task #1 to be completed by the end of Week 2

Task 2: Collect and Consolidate Data

The contractor will collect data on the following elements:

- Existing traffic volumes and level of service for roadway segments within the study area. This includes mapping, aerial photography, historical research and other materials available from the DC Office of Planning, the National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC), District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Traffic Services Administration and Transportation Policy and Planning, and other District and Federal government agencies.
- Review traffic information and recommendations included in the Columbia Heights proposed development transportation plans and studies.
- Field reconnaissance of the study area noting existing land uses, existing roadway geometric and traffic control conditions, traffic flow patterns, transit facilities and services, pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities (if any), as well as opportunities and constraints pertaining to access from the intersecting side streets and driveways.
- Collect land use and transportation information from existing reports on proposed future development projects in Columbia Heights neighborhood in the District of Columbia; including number of proposed residences, square footage of commercial and office space, number of proposed parking spaces, and projected vehicle trips per day. The contractor shall review existing traffic management plans prepared by project proponents and prepare an independent analysis of the impact of these various proposed future development projects on the existing transportation infrastructure.

- Identify turning motions at key intersections during the morning peak period and the afternoon peak period on typical weekdays. These key intersections should include, ten (10) locations selected from the following list of intersections:
 1. 14th Street, Park Road and Kenyon Street, NW
 2. 14th Street and Irving Street, NW
 3. 14th Street and Columbia Road, NW
 4. 14th Street and Harvard Street, NW
 5. 14th Street and Florida Avenue, NW
 6. 14th Street and Spring Road, NW
 7. 14th Street and Monroe Street, NW
 8. Columbia Road and Georgia Avenue, NW
 9. Columbia Road and 16th Street, NW
 10. Park Road and 16th Street, NW
 11. Irving Street and Georgia Avenue, NW
 12. Irving Street and 16th Street, NW
 13. Harvard Street and Georgia Avenue, NW
 14. Harvard Street and 16th Street, NW
 15. Park Road and 13th Street, NW
 16. Irving Street and 13th Street, NW
 17. Columbia Road and 13th Street, NW
 18. Harvard Street and 13th Street, NW
 19. Columbia Road and 15th Street, NW
 20. Irving Street and 15th Street, NW
 21. Harvard Street and 15th Street, NW
 22. New Hampshire Avenue and Georgia Avenue, NW
 23. New Hampshire Avenue and Sherman Avenue, NW
- Mechanical/continuous vehicle volume, speed and classification survey at two locations within the study area, covering a two-week period.
- Travel time and delay studies within the study area, during the weekday morning and afternoon peak periods, as well as during the Saturday and Sunday 10 am - 2 pm peak period.
- Generalized origin-destination observations at key portal points.
- Parking inventory of existing off-street and on-street parking and off-street parking as recommended in proposed development projects. The consultants shall also conduct a parking demand management study to estimate future parking needs for the study area.
- Queuing observation of traffic along the major corridors of the study area.
- Number and type of truck traffic occurring on the major corridors of the study area.
- Investigate bus, vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian access to the Columbia Heights Metro Station, including current bus queuing practices, and loading and unloading locations and practices.

- Conduct pedestrian and bicycle counts within the study area and assess pedestrian and bicycle movement needs. Review intersections for ADA compliance.
- Review census data regarding automobile ownership and commuter data within the study area.
- Investigate mass transit service delivery, including frequency of use.
- Investigate bus service throughout the study area, including location of bus stops, bus routes, and general ridership information (WMATA bus services).
- Investigate potential traffic impacts on the safety of pedestrians of the proposed developments throughout the Columbia Heights neighborhood, especially the potential impact on traffic and safety issues at 14th Street, Park Road, Irving Street, Columbia Road, Harvard Street, Florida Avenue, Spring Road, Georgia Avenue and 16th Street all within the study area, and other development outside the study area but on major corridors.
- Investigate current truck traffic in the study area and the potential truck traffic impacts following build out of development.
- Review and comment on transportation management plans related to all construction activities planned in the study area.
- Prepare a brief report summarizing findings of Task #2.

Task #2 to be completed Week 8

Task 3: Public Meeting #2

The contractor will conduct a public meeting to review transportation data collected in Task #2 and obtain comments on preliminary short and long-term transportation options from ANC 1 A, 1B, 1C and 1D, community groups and other stakeholders in the study area and obtain comments.

Task #3 to be completed Week 10

Task: 4 Short-term Options

The contractor will analyze the current and projected future vehicular, transit, bicycle and pedestrian transportation conditions and identify short-term options which could be implemented within 12 months after contract completion to improve mobility, safety, provide adequate parking and reduce congestion, such as traffic control measures, traffic calming measures, improved signage, signalization, channelization, etc. The contractor shall also provide recommendations to improve transit connections with the Columbia Heights Metrorail system and improve bicycle and pedestrian access through the study

area. The contractor shall also develop parking demand management policies to minimize demand for parking facilities and encourage shared use of parking facilities by residents, employees and customers. Also, the contractor shall provide a description of proposed policies and guidelines regarding the management of construction related traffic. The contractor shall prepare a brief report summarizing their findings and recommended short-term improvements. As part of this analysis, the contractor will calculate the impact of each proposed improvement on mobility, safety, and level of service of the major corridor within the study area. The contractor shall also analyze average delays, queues and travel times along the corridor both with and without the recommended short-term options using a Sychro software-modeling program. Contractor will analyze opportunities for improving efficiency and safety of truck traffic including policies as well as infrastructural improvements.

Task #4 to be completed Week 12

Task 5: Long-term Options

The contractor will analyze the current and projected future transportation needs and identify long-term options to improve mobility, safety and reduce congestion, for all modes of transportation, that would take longer than 12 months to implement after contract completion. The contractor shall also identify methods of improving pedestrian, transit and bicycle connections, including bus loading and unloading at the Columbia Heights Metrorail Station and parking needs and pedestrian and bicycle connections to the station. The contractor shall also provide information on current on-street and off-street parking in the study area, and future parking needs for all users. The contractor shall prepare a brief report summarizing their findings and recommended long-term improvements. As part of this analysis, the contractor will calculate the impact of each proposed improvement on mobility, safety, and level of service for all modes of transportation. The contractor shall also analyze average delays, queues and travel times along the major corridors both with and without the recommended long-term options using a Synchro software-modeling program. Contractor will analyze opportunities for improving efficiency and safety of truck traffic including policies as well as infrastructural improvements.

Task #5 to be completed Week 12

Task 6: Draft Report

The contractor will prepare a draft report of findings and recommendations regarding transportation and safety improvements from Tasks 2, 3 and 4, including transportation policies, parking demand management policies, and physical improvements to the transportation infrastructure. The report shall also include budget estimates and schedules for recommended short and long-term improvements. The contractor shall make 30 copies and distribute them to District Agencies, Columbia Heights neighborhood associations, particularly, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D, Federal agencies, other local agencies and stakeholder groups.

Task #6 to be completed Week 14

Task 7: Public meeting # 3

The contractor will conduct a public meeting to review draft findings and recommendations from Task #6 with ANC 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D, community groups and other stakeholders in the study area and obtain comments.

Task #7 to be completed Week 16

Task 8: Final Report

The contractor shall incorporate comments from the public meetings, the District and Federal agencies into a final report, including budget estimates and schedules for recommended short and long term improvements, and make 30 copies available to District, ANC's 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D, Federal agencies, and stakeholder groups.

Task #8 to be completed Week 18

Task 9: Public Meeting # 4

The contractor will conduct a final public meeting to review the final report with the ANC, community groups and stakeholders.

Task #9 to be completed Week 20

Project Deliverables

- Detailed scope of work and study schedule and project budget.
- Preliminary report on findings and preliminary recommendations for short-term and long-term improvements
- Draft report of short-term and long-term improvements
- Final report of short-term and long-term improvements
- Visual aids including maps or aerial photos of study area as needed
- Monthly progress reports during the contract period.

Coordination

Consultant will work closely with the DDOT Traffic Services Administration, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, the Development Corporation of Columbia Heights, other community groups, stakeholders and the DC Office of Planning and National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC).

Key Dates/Schedule

Week 2: Conduct a scoping meeting with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D.

Week 8: Determine existing traffic volumes and level of service for roadway segments within the study area. Identify turning motions at key intersections.

Week 12: Identify short-term and long-term improvements to improve mobility, safety and reduce congestion for all modes of transportation.

Week 14: Draft Report

Week 16: Public Meeting

Week 18/20: Final Report and Public Meeting